

**Hamilton Conservation Commission
Minutes of Meeting of September 14, 2016
Meeting held at Hamilton Town Hall**

Commissioners present:

Chair Richard Luongo, Bob Cronin, Virginia Cookson, Chris Currier, Keith Glidden,
Tom Myers, George Tarr

Staff present:

Jim Hankin, Conservation Agent

Others present:

Representatives of Open Space Committee (OSC), Jackie Hodge, Nancy Baker (OSC
Chair), Gretel Clark, Rosemary Kennedy
Shawn Farrell, Board of Selectmen liaison

Richard Luongo opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Jim Hankin summarized packet material including a copy of the certified vote by Town Meeting transferring open space authority at Patton Homestead to the Commission, a letter from OSC, and Northeast Mosquito Control District update on Linden and Howard Street work.

Update from Open Space Committee

The OSC gave an update on its recent activities including meetings on open space issues and the OSC site walk at Patton Homestead. Discussion during the site visit addressed, among other things, connectivity between open space parcels in the area and the Patton Homestead (i.e., Bradley Palmer). Some OSC members attended the Planning Board site walk at Patton Homestead regarding Town's request for a parking lot relative to scenic roads, open space and stone walls. The OSC is seeking to establish a definitive listing of scenic roads in Hamilton. Conservation Agent Jim Hankin will research the Mass. General Law on scenic roads.

Mr. Hankin reported on a meeting he had with Town Counsel Donna Brewer and Town Manager Michael Lombardo about the Patton Homestead open space transfer vote at Town Meeting as and Patton Homestead in general. Ms. Brewer indicated that the Town vote meant that Commission has 100% control 9.1 acres designated Open Space land at Patton Homestead. The remaining 13 plus acres of the Homestead is Town land, which has not been transferred to HCC. There was a suggestion that parking for a few large events held at the 13 acres portion during the year could be done on grass rather than a gravel parking lot. Also, a decision should be reached as to use of the Homestead before a parking lot is installed.

OSC raised concerns that Patton Ridge storm-water management systems and septic system may be located on the Open Space land which is not permitted under the Special Permit. Mr. Hankin reported that Ms. Brewer and Mr. Lombardo had noted that a change in the lot line for Patton Ridge development was crafted to allow for drainage system and other infrastructure at the Patton Ridge development to be entirely within the development parcel. As-built plans have been filed for some of the houses. Additional documentation may be necessary to establish that these

systems are on development property only.

In discussing the wood path along the marsh and river Mr. Hankin indicated that vehicle access is not currently permitted on the wood path within Wetlands Act and Conservation Bylaw jurisdiction. Pedestrian access to the Greenbelt river viewing platform and a possible boat launch along the Ipswich River is guaranteed under the Open Space passive recreation vote by Town Meeting. A more useable boat launch (HCC granted Patton family permission for existing canoe launch in 2009) that would provide better use for the public is under consideration. This may require a filing and permit under the Wetlands Act and Conservation Bylaw.

Mr. Hankin will inquire with the Town manager regarding if the no trespassing signs at the wood path could be removed and possibly replaced with public access signs. It was noted that the Planning Board's Special Permit governs the Patton Ridge development.

Enforcement Order

Status Review

641 Bay Road

All material (leaf dumping) in the enforcement area was removed prior to August 15, 2016. The Conservation Agent has visited the site and reports that the Commission may need to recommend the area be stabilized in the winter and seeded in the spring depending on rain levels for the rest of the season.

Request for Determination

95 School Street

The Conservation Agent described informal presentation by septic system designer and the Commission reviewed photos of the School Street site. The Health Agent has signed off on the septic system design pending the Commission's approval. Discussion was on how a tree was likely removed in the area where test pits were dug. Also, that digging and refilling of soil will occur at the site. The Conservation Agent will review erosion control before work begins.

Virginia Cookson moved to issue a Negative Determination (under the Town by-law, Chapter 17 and Wetlands Protection Act) for septic work proposed at 95 School Street. Keith Glidden seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request for Extension

DEP #172-0582, recorded book 34417 pg 232, 10/01/15

318 Forest Street

An extension to the Order is required under the Town by-law. Mr. Glidden moved to extend the Order for an additional year. Tom Myers seconded the motion. The Commission voted 6-0-1 in favor of the motion with Ms. Cookson not participating in the vote.

Minutes Approval – July 13, and July 26, 2016

Chris Currier moved to accept the minutes for July 13 and July 26, 2016. Mr. Glidden seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Request to re-appoint Emer McCourt to 3 year term on OSC, through 6/30/19

Mr. Myers moved to re-appoint Emer McCourt to 3 year term on OSC, through 6/30/19. Mr. Currier seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Coordinator's Report

Mr. Hankin reported that the Northeast Mosquito Control District finished its mechanized ditch cleaning operation by Highland Street in late spring. As a result the stream is carrying more water. A second phase is proposed to use chain saws and hack saws to increase flow behind houses on Howard Street.

The OSC will be come back to an upcoming Commission meeting with update (i.e., proposed drainage system location at Patton Ridge and Patton Homestead property). Discussion reiterated that parking on mowed grass area for large events could be used at the Patton Homestead versus installing a gravel parking lot.

Bob Cronin moved to adjourn. Mr. Myers seconded the motion. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Commission adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted September 24, 2016 by Jane Dooley